

Ain't That A Shame

Fats Domino

Fats Domino's 1955 top ten hit "Ain't That A Shame" is a jilted lover's lament that his gal was stupid enough to leave old Fats. It is she, not him that is going to suffer from the split-up. And while Fats is broken hearted, he points the finger at her as the one to blame. Ain't it a shame she's blowing the best thing she ever had. Fats will survive; however his old gal is going to have to look mighty hard to find another boy as good.

"Ain't That A Shame", originally called "Ain't It A Shame" is more blues than rock and roll and the engineers at the L.A. session had to compress Fats' vocals and speed up the song to make it sound less bluesy and give it more mainstream appeal.

Like "Blueberry Hill", "Ain't That A Shame" has a rather tedious and monotonous arrangement, but interestingly, it works alongside Fats unique style. Dominated by his patented vocals, "Ain't That A Shame" uses a strong set of studio musicians, whose drums, double bass, electric guitar, Fat's slow sad sound of blues, and a strong sax in the middle eight to give it the energy that "Blueberry Hill" lacked in its composition.

It is, however, the lyrics that make "Ain't That A Shame" a hit. When Fats Domino sings *You broke my heart, when you said we're apart, ain't that a shame, my tears fell like rain, ain't that a shame you're the one to blame*; his irony is enthusiastically shared with us. She's the one to blame and the one who's going to lose in the end.

"Ain't That A Shame" gained national fame after being re-recorded by white recording artist Pat Boone who wanted to change the song's title to "Isn't that A Shame". His producer believing that Pat Boone was white enough dissuaded him from altering the title. Domino's version soon became more popular, bringing Fat's music to the mass market a half dozen years after his first major recording, "The Fat Man"

"Ain't That A Shame" eventually sold over a million copies. It reached #1 on the "Black Singles" chart and #10 on the "Pop Singles" chart. The song is ranked #431 on the Rolling Stone magazine's list of The Five Hundred Greatest Songs Of All Time".

Dave Bartholomew who co-wrote "Ain't That A Shame" with Fats Domino initially had his doubts about the song. He later warmed up to the simplicity of Domino's lyric: "Ain't That a Shame' will never die," he said. "It will be here when the world comes to an end."